

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 18 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments set forth in this response.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,073,560 to Kang et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended the claims to include the following additional step: holding the conditions of the precursor after introduction of the plurality of gas bubbles steady for a specified period of time such that a proportion of the plurality of bubbles above a chosen size threshold are removed from the molten precursor via flotation such that the bubble size distribution within the precursor is at least partially homogenized;

Nowhere does the Kang et al. patent ever discuss or even suggest including a flotation step during which the bubble distribution with the foam precursor can be controlled and narrowed. Accordingly Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art, having read the disclosure of Kang et al. would not have been motivated to perfect a foam manufacturing method as set forth in the claims of the instant application.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and response, it is believed that the application is in condition for further examination. If any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, Applicant would appreciate if the Examiner would advise the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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